

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 20021 062133Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 ACDA-12 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
PRS-01 PM-05 /053 W
-----070991 070609Z /23R
R 061615Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9028
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 20021

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, IT, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MESSAGE TO BERLINGUER ON N-BOMB ISSUE

REF: MOSCOW 17427

1. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT HEARING THAT THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE TO BERLINGUER, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW, ABOUT THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S (PCI) POSITION ON THE N-BOMB. THIS IS ONE FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE ON WHICH THE PIC HAS ADOPTED A CLEAR POSITION.

2. THE PCI FIRST INDICATED ITS NEGATIVE POSITION ON THE N-BOMB WHEN IT SEGNEED, TOGETHER WITH 27 OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES INCLUDING THE SOVIET, THE FRENCH, AND THE SPANISH (BUT NOT THE YUGOSLAV AND THE ROMANIAN), A JOINT DECLARATION STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOMB. THE DECLARATION APPEARED IN THE PCI DAILY L'UNITA ON AUGUST 8. THE PARTY'S STRONGEST UNILATERAL COMMENT ON THE N-BOMB CAME IN A STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF IT FOREIGN SECTION (RUBBI) DURING A DEBATE IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE ITALIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. COMMENTING ON A STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN WHICH IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET TAKEN A POSI-
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TION ON THE N-BOMB, RUBBI SAID: "AS FAR AS IT CONCERNS US (I.E., THE COMMUNISTS), WE ARE EXPRESSING OUR FIRM AND CLEAR OPPOSITION TO THE PLANNING FOR, PRODUCTION AND SUBSEQUENT DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE OF THE N-BOMB. THE ARGUMENT ACCORDING TO WHICH THIS WEAPON WOULD SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE IS NOT ONLY NOT ACCEPTABLE, BUT IT IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS." L'UNITA

ALSO PUBLISHED A SERIES OF COMMENTARIES ON THE N-BOMB,
ALL BUT ONE OF WHICH WERE NEGATIVE. THE SERIES SERVED
TO STIMULATE PUBLIC OPINION TO OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOMB.

3. WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT BREZHNEV WOULD HAVE CHOSEN TO
RAISE WITH BERLINGUER SOVIET CONCERN OVER THE PCI'S
STATED POSITIONS ON NATO AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.
HOWEVER, GIVEN THE UNAMBIGUOUS STAND THAT THE PCI HAS
TAKEN ON THE N-BOMB, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS AN AREA
IN WHICH THE SOVIETS CAN COMPLAIN IN ANY MEASURE OVER
PCI BEHAVIOR. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, CHEMICAL WARFARE WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME20021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771288/aaaacwoi.tel
Line Count: 73
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 343401
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET MESSAGE TO BERLINGUER ON N-BOMB ISSUE
TAGS: PINS, IT, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
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